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PATENT  
1254-0193P

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hidenari NAKAHAMA et al. Conf.: 6789  
Appl. No.: 10/031,635 Group: 1713  
Filed: June 3, 2002 Examiner: HU, H.S.  
For: RUBBER COMPOSITION FOR EXTRUSION MOLDING AND  
FOR MOLDING WITH MOLD AND USE THEREOF

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

HANDCARRY TO:  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

June 25, 2004

Sir:

Applicants, herein, submit comments on the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowability dated April 8, 2004. Applicants in no way acquiesce to the following statements made by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowability.

First, in the paragraph on page 4 (#5) regarding the Examiner's reasons for allowance, the Examiner indicates that claim 1 recites 3 to 12 carbon atoms for compound A. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 1 recites 3 to 20 carbon atoms for compound A. This element was never narrowed in any claim and thus Applicants submit that this element is entitled to the full

scope claimed as well as any scope that may be warranted under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Second, Applicants also take issue with the Examiner's statement on page 6, line 1, wherein the Examiner states:

*In order to show the critical combination of such a specific limitation...*

Applicants at no time ever discussed or remotely suggested a "critical combination". Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's position regarding any critical combination as no critical combination was ever discussed or remotely suggested.

Third, Applicants respectfully point out that the corrected drawings were filed on January 15, 2004 and not on January 21, 2004 as asserted by the Examiner on the Notice of Allowability.

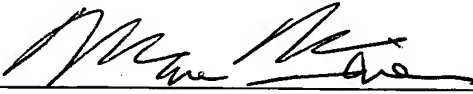
With the above remarks, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, are still ready for issue.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
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